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THE MUSKET

LEXINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

February 2006 Volume 6; Issue 6

themusket@yahoo.com

Connie Wang

At the school level history day fair, Ed Meyers presents his project titled "The Fall of the Berlin Wall and Why Communism Collapsed" to a judge.

Students Show Research Skills at History Day

By Micheline Soley

On February 8, Lexington High School held its local chapter competition of the National History Day contest. 53 students competed in this year's competition to represent the theme of "Taking a Stand in History: People, Ideas, Events" through papers, table top projects, and performance or media presentations. Up to fourteen students in each category of the local competition were allowed to move up to the regional competition that took place on March 4, 2006. The rigorous competition can mean much preparation and work for the students, but the prize of the final national competition is $5,000.

A participating sophomore Elisenda Cochin competed in the performance category by delivering a monologue as Marjorie Agosin, a poet advocate who speaks out for women's rights through her poetry. The presentation took huge amounts of time and research to prepare. "We've been working on this for about a month and a half," Elisenda explains.

Despite the time involvement, students can learn and experience a great deal from History Day. Sophomore Lilia Kilburn has done more than add an item to her college résumé by entering in the History Day competition. Lilia's grandparents came from Finland to the United States when they were her age, and by studying Finland's fight for cultural and political independence in her poster project, Lilia was able to learn more about her past. Lilia reflects, "What I learned really surprised me, and I wanted to share it with other people too." She created a double-decker poster as is customary in the poster division. Students tape two three-panel display boards together to make one towering poster, which is very imposing when placed atop the standard Media Center desks.

"As is the case each year, the theme is broad enough to encourage investigation of topics rang-

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Arlington Student Death Leaves Questions

By Ben Carter

The recent suicide of 17-year-old Arlington High School student Cameron O'Connor, who shot himself while high on the anti-anxiety pill Klonopin, has sent shockwaves through local school communities.

In his hometown, O'Connor's death prompted a police investigation that led to the arrest of two Arlington High students found to be in possession of illicit prescription medications. In Arlington, as well as in towns such as Salem and Belmont, community members have called for random drug testing of middle and high school students. Several other schools in the state have looked into mental health seminars such as the national SOS "Signs of Suicide" program.

At Lexington High School, O'Connor's death has had a minimal impact among administrators. One faculty member attributes this to a mentality that LHS is a "different type of school" than Arlington High School. Students attest to this, describing Lexington as less problem-prone than Arlington due to its relative academic strength and "less urban" setting.

However, Outreach Counselor Ben Misch stresses that Lexington is no different than other towns in regard to issues of student mental health. "Suicide is one of the leading causes of death among adolescents in the nation," he says. It is an issue that, like drug and alcohol abuse, transcends lines of both class and race. According to the 2003 Youth Risk Assessment Survey, 27 percent of Massachusetts high school students said they had "thought seriously" about committing suicide in the past year, while 8 percent said they had actually tried to kill themselves.

Health teacher Debra Holmen believes that students at LHS are in a unique situation. "This town really values education," she said. "Kids are really worried about grades, not learning." The town's emphasis on academics is regarded by many to be a key cause of the stress that is known to lead to substance abuse and suicide.

Despite a national teenage suicide rate that continues to skyrocket – quadrupling since the 1970s – Holmen has not witnessed a notable deterioration in student mental health over her years at LHS. "Suicide and drug issues have always been a problem, the methods have just changed," she said. LHS has not had a student suicide since the 1980s.

Misch attributes rising national suicide rates to a constellation of forces. Formal studies have linked teen suicide to a host of factors, including sexual orientation issues, the deterioration of the traditional family unit, drug over-prescription, and heavy metal music. Misch identifies the "fast-paced environment" we live in as the problem's compelling force, pointing out the role of handgun accessibility and prescription drug use in O'Connor's death.

O'Connor's use of his father's 9mm handgun has prompted Arlington school officials to investigate issues of gun accessibility. Unlike drug overdose and self-laceration, suicide attempts made with firearms are successful more often than not. Studies show that

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Senate Votes Down Median Grade Bill

By Eric Eid-Reiner

On February 15, the Student-Faculty Senate voted down the Median Grade Reporting Bill 33 to 1. The bill proposed that teachers calculate and make available median letter grades for each class on both quarterly and yearly bases. The bill, which Senate has been discussing since January, stated that this information would be reported on the LHS website.

The bill's author, Faculty Senator and physics teacher David Colarusso, emphasized that "more information is better" for everyone. He pointed out that providing students with a median grade would help put their grades into perspective. Colarusso was one of three senators who abstained in the final vote.

Senator and junior Bennett Earle argued that student-teacher dialogue is more beneficial than median grade reporting and enables discussion of student progress with respect to both individual potential and peer performance. Others added that school is not about how well a person does in a class compared to other students, but how much a person is growing and learning as an individual.

It was suggested that providing a median grade might prompt students to work harder. However, Faculty Senator and French teacher Karen Girondel responded that the bill would adversely affect the self-esteem and outlook of hard-working students

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FEATURES

Winterfest is a Raving Success

By Abha Gallewale

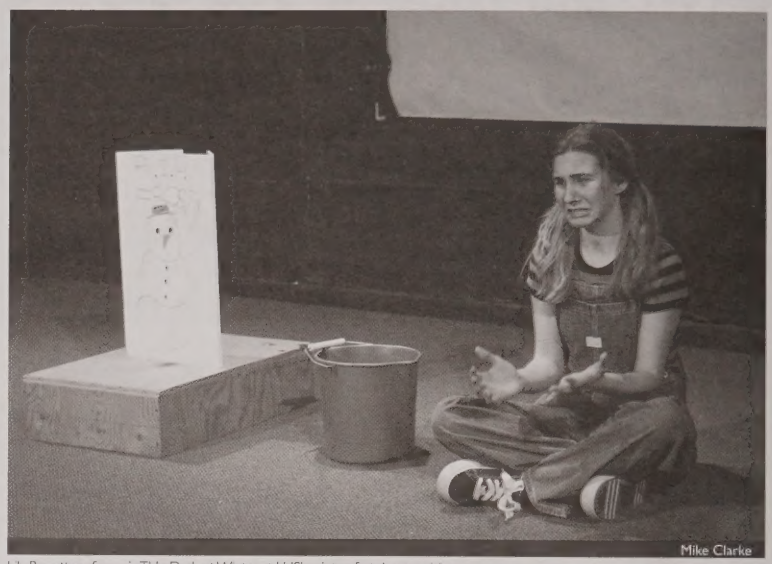
On the weekend of February 2, 2006, the LHS Drama Department held Winterfest, three exciting nights of short plays, all of which were student-directed, and, of course, student-performed. The plays were held in both the Blackbox Theater and Auditorium, but the schedule was created in such a way that no plays overlapped. That way, even the actors could watch all the plays. "That's what I call a drama festival!" exclaimed Steve Bogart, the LHS drama teacher.

A very supportive atmosphere was constantly in place. A meeting took place each night for all involved in the Drama Department, before the curtain lifted where pep talks, appreciations, and encouragements of various sorts were given.

The plays themselves varied, dealing with many different issues. The titles were worth reading twice: Nutrition Facts, Shabadoo, Catastrophe (pronounced "Ka-ta-stroph") and Darkest Winter. Drama Club also performed, along with Improv Troupe, amidst enthusiastic cheers from the whole Blackbox. However, Winterfest did not just consist of plays. Students performed a physical theater piece for the Dresden Dolls as well as Krumpin', a "combination of African and traditional native dances with new wave west coast."

One particularly different play was Walnut Street. This touching story was described as "domestic abuse in the home of a little girl and her drunken father. The story is told through the eyes of the girl and shows the effects of abuse come to a climax." Another favorite was The Doldrums, a play with humor and emotion.

Some parts of plays were completely random, which is ironically what made them so entertaining. Bill's Rolling in His Grave, written, directed, and produced by the Drama Club was a particularly good example. The play was based around the saying "Expectation is the root of all heartache," but aspects of the play included a very convincing portrayal of a dog by Taya Gasperini and a grand finale of two circular lines skipping around the room to music.



Mike Clarke

Lily Barrett performs in THe Darkest Winter at LHS's winterefest theater night.

A lot of work and time was put in by the actors, the writers, the crew, and of course, the student directors. Though there were only five rehearsals, Kathryn Noonan, director of Catastrophe, said that it was "the most nerve-wracking experience of my life."

"Winterfest was both exhilarating and nerve racking. I'm sad it's over. I love my cast," said Andy Short, an actor in both Darkest Winter and The Downplay of Intellectualism in New York. Evan Seitchik, an actor in Catastrophe, described the experience as "intense, but it really came together at the end." Overall, Winterfest was enjoyed and cherished by all who came, planned, and participated.

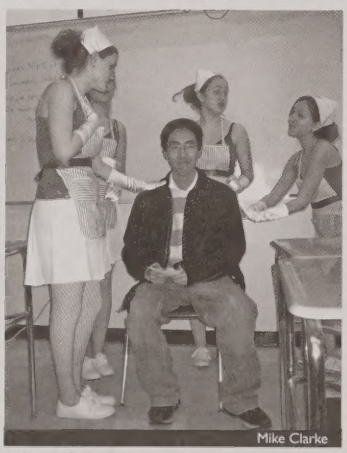
Singing Valentines: Serenading Their Way Into Our Hearts

By Alex Cheng

February 14th is a time for celebration at LHS, regardless of students' relationship status. For at LHS, Valentine's Day becomes a Mardi Gras of sorts, a day filled with costumes, music, dance, and mild humiliation. Continuing the time honored tradition, singing valentines were the highlight of pre-vacation academia.

Valentine's Day, although a widely celebrated holiday, is also a day feared by LHS teachers campus-wide. Students arrived at school as excited as they had been the day before winter break. Class work was completed with a disturbingly low amount of effort and lectures went unheard. Bunsen burners went unlit, our country's past seemed of little importance, grammar worksheets consisted of doodles rather than subject and predicate identification, and graphing calculators displayed games of Tetris instead of complex equations. Our senses were heightened to match those of a cat. With the drop of a pencil and the sight of a person passing by the door, we would jump to the edge of our seats. And with the sound of sweet voices strolling into our classrooms, our acute awareness proved warranted and we were in for a show.

Classrooms were alive with sights and sounds. Students were graced by entertainers ranging from Britney Spears look-alikes donning plaid skirts and loosely fitted ties, punk idols of the London Calling age, suave Casanovas, golfers whose talent rivaled that of Arnold Palmer, nurses channeling Florence Nightingale's charm, and the occasional civil service worker.



Mike Clarke

A shocked Peter Kim is serenaded by candystripers Olivia Miller, Chrissy Kugel, Mariah Slone, and Elizabeth Bauman.

Darius Dummott and his crew of rico suaves were a hit. With silk shirts, roses, teddy bears, and senior Pat Healey's killer shades, this group knew exactly how to make the ladies swoon. Julie Osburne-Rothstein, Micki Chernick, Christina Ramos, and Gracie Lane heated up LHS as steamy firewomen, and Alex Bathon, Mika Edgerly, Emma Puka-Beals, and Helen Burgard returned distracted students to the world of school with their melodic tunes. The golf quartet was surely a sight to be seen. David Seaward's African inspired M.C. Hammer pants and Tom Irving's bright yellow knee high socks were the epitome of high fashion. However, it was Dave Collins' derriere-shaking and Chris Voss' baritone as he circled his victim while doing the chicken dance in tight plaid trousers that were the show stoppers. These Tiger Woods wannabes showed that humor is a surefire way to a girl's heart.

Out of all the amazing, and often hilarious, costumes displayed during the day of love, no one would dispute that the punk rockers outdid all the other groups by a landslide. These guys backtracked to the 80's, the era of big hair and Madonna, but more importantly, the era of rock. They tapped into the punk epicenter of London in homage to the Who, the Clash, and Billy Idol. Rebellious black hair, mascara, ripped jeans and studded clothing were plentiful. With Peter Moriarty in ripped denim, Raffi Sweet in eye-liner a la Billy Joe Armstrong, Ben Cohen resem-

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Bite Size

For the Best Thai Around, Look to Patou

Sasha Wilson

Located in Belmont center at 69 Leonard Street, Patou serves an array of Thai food. Cozy and inviting, this restaurant is a blend of classic Thai food and quirky decoration, such as bowls with the circle off-center and a modern color scheme. The food prices range from moderate to very inexpensive, but the price does not reflect the quality of the food. The portion sizes are quite large and, depending on one's appetite, they are more than enough for one person. The ambiance of the restaurant is intimate with its hanging covered light fixtures. The restaurant is an excellent place for a warm meal. Although Belmont is slightly off the beaten path, a trip out to Patou is well worth it for the best Thai food around. Highly recommended are the pad Thai, the spring rolls, and the grilled chicken.

Aramati Making Smooth Transition into Music Dept

By Eric Eid-Reiner

Justin Aramati has been hired to fill the position left by former LHS jazz and band teacher Eric Schedin, who was recently granted a leave of absence through the end of this school year.

A student teacher from the Boston Conservatory, Aramati assisted in the LHS music department from September to January. Following Schedin's departure in January, Aramati served as a substitute during the search for a full-time replacement. Aramati received his Bachelor's degree in Clarinet Performance from the New England Conservatory in the spring of 2004 and will graduate from the Boston Conservatory with a Master's in Music Education this spring.

Despite its mid-year timing, the procedure for selecting him for the position was the same as it is for filling any open teaching position. Principal Michael Jones asked Walter Pavasaris, the Fine and Performing Arts Department Head, and Jeff Leonard, an LHS band and jazz teacher for over twenty years, to find "the best person they could" for the job. Advertisements were placed in the Boston Globe and elsewhere, and resumés from

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FEATURES

The Drugs, They Are A-Changin'

By Rachel Kase

It is not news that high school students are abusing alcohol and marijuana. However, the suicide of a seventeen-year-old Arlington High School student in January unveiled an increasing practice and problem among high school students in Arlington and the surrounding communities: prescription drug abuse.

According to Arlington police, the boy shot himself in the head in his family's home after using drugs, probably Klonopin, a prescription anti-anxiety drug. His parents, who said their son was not depressed, blame his suicide on his drug use. Days after the suicide, police arrested two other Arlington students on drug charges. Police charged a sixteen-year-old, who possessed as many as 1,000 Oxycontin, Percocet and Klonopin pills, with possession and intent to distribute drugs, and an eighteen-year-old with possession.

These students are not the only ones experimenting with prescription drugs. Unlike other drugs, prescription drugs such as Klonopin and Ritalin are legal, easy to obtain, and appear to be safe. Despite increasing warnings from experts that Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) is over-diagnosed, a recent national survey estimates that 2.5 million children and 1.5 million adults in the United States take stimulants, primarily to treat ADHD. This means that it is relatively easy for any student to obtain prescription drugs, whether or not he has a prescription.

At competitive, high-pressure high schools and colleges such as LHS, abuse of ADHD medication is a particularly rampant problem. Stimulants such as Ritalin, Dexadrine, and Aderol are prescribed to individuals who are hyperactive or inattentive to help them to calm down and focus. Many students without the disorder have realized that these drugs can also function as a study aid. One dose can significantly increase attention span, eliminate feelings of fatigue, and boost energy. One LHS senior claimed that after taking Aderol to study for finals last spring, he "read [his] chemistry textbook for hours into the night like it was a novel."

In today's demanding society, prescription drugs often offer an easy way for students to artificially increase their productivity and stamina or a guilt-free way to get high.

Benjamin Mich, an outreach counselor at the high school, thinks that prescription drug abuse is often a student's answer to our "quick-fix culture." Kids see that their parents take drugs to solve many of their problems and they think that drugs are an appropriate solution to their demanding workload at school. As Jennifer Wolfrum, the director of health education at the high school, pointed out, this is a particularly difficult issue because some students really need this medication and that is much different from students who abuse the drugs. This is the root of the controversy. After taking Ritalin or Aderol, users' moods improve and they are often academically more successful in areas such as SAT tests and final exams. Another local student claimed that he felt like he had to take Aderol during some of his exams "to level the playing field."

Unfortunately, many students are unaware that their short-term study solution may cause long-term health problems. Recent research indicates that use of stimulants like Ritalin could cause cardiovascular problems. According to the New York Times, last week a Federal Advisory Panel advised regulators to use the "strongest possible warning labels" on stimulants. A member of the panel warned that stimulants could cause more injury to the heart than Vioxx, a painkiller that was removed from the market due to its serious potential heart risks. Perhaps these warnings will deter doctors from prescribing drugs like Ritalin, but will they have the same effect on stimulant drug-abusers?

In today's demanding society, prescription drugs often offer an easy way for students to artificially increase their productivity and stamina or a guilt-free way to get high. These are not the drugs that our parents were using. They are this generation's response to the current social climate, a scary reflection of a new age, and kids may have to pay for their higher SAT scores with their health.

Music Department • FROM PAGE 2

what Leonard called a "surprisingly large number" of qualified applicants were received. From the applicants, five were selected for interviews. Ultimately, Pavasaris and Leonard recommended that Jones hire Aramati. Following an interview with Jones, Aramati was hired full-time.

Both Leonard and Pavasaris noted that Aramati has been making "a smooth transition" from substitute to full-time teacher, with Leonard adding that "he's a talented musician and a really hard worker."

Aramati commented, "I feel very privileged to be working with this faculty and these students. It's a great job!"

Trip to Africa Gives Students a Whole New Life Perspective

By Emily Moss

While many LHS students slept through their vacation week or spent it lounging on the couch watching Saved by the Bell reruns, 18 LHS students spent their time off hiking Mt. Kilimanjaro, observing a War Crimes Tribunal and sleeping on the edge of a crater.

Appreciation for different cultures is a longstanding tenet of LHS' curriculum, but this year took that appreciation to a new level. This year, these 18 students, plus three chaperones, spent ten days in Kenya and Tanzania learning to look at the world from a whole new angle.

The primary focus for the trip was observing the Rwanda War Crimes Tribunal. Watching from a gallery, the group listened through a translator as witnesses testified. Dr. Deborah Johnston, a chaperone who teaches International Relations (among other classes), described how the students were really able to see the "complexity of genocide." She added, "Not everyone is all evil or all good." The group had prepared for the trip with regular meetings earlier this year where they read and discussed the history and present conditions of Rwanda. But, "seeing it and hearing them talk about it made it so much realer," said junior Alyssa Bogdanow. She added, "It wasn't just a war, it was real people."

Naris Ghazarians

The Tanzania group lines up to receive directions on the first day.

In addition to their time spent at the tribunal, the group spent a week staying at the United African Alliance Community Center (UAACC.) From there, they visited schools, an orphanage, and several NGOs (non-governmental organizations) that deal with human-rights development. One of the highlights of the trip was an afternoon the students spent with local families. Spread out among ten different households, the kids got a chance to meet and talk with local families. The family visited by Bogdanow and junior Toni Maeck had eight children ranging from age one to age seventeen. The girls shared photographs, drank tea, and did their best to converse with the family's limited English and their few words of Swahili.

The trip began and ended in Nairobi, Kenya, where the group flew into and out of. The spent their first two days in the city, where they took a tour specifically aimed at showing human rights developments being made in the area. The students "really got a sense of the varying degrees of economic classes in Nairobi," said Johnston.

Exhausted but content, the students and advisors were back in school on Monday. They are currently planning a benefit to be held in the upcoming weeks. A slideshow and presentations about the experience will be shown, and money raised will go to the UAACC programs supporting local education and community development. Also on the table are talks about a potential return trip next year. Johnston would love to extend the trip to a full two weeks. As for the students, Bogdanow for one, would "go back in a second."

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EDITORIALS

LHS Program Cuts May Turn On Override Vote

By Helen Goodman

On February 13, Superintendent Paul Ash released a list of potential program cuts for the 2006-2007 school year. An override vote in the spring will determine whether or not the town can afford to maintain certain programs that Ash has designated "at-risk." The list of cuts is divided into three separate sections, each consisting of a group of at-risk programs that require a set increase in the budget in order to survive.

To preserve programs in all three sections, the school budget would have to increase by 11% to $66,703,858, an amount upon which the school committee agreed in January. The potential cut list calculates money saved by the elimination of each of the three sections. If the first and highest risk section is cut from the budget, for instance, the town would save $2,634,412, thus requiring a less steep, but still substantial, increase in the current budget.

Some programs stand out among those that would be cut if the budget is funded at only a minimum guaranteed increase of 2.5%. The LHS German program is at risk for reduction in the event of an override failure. The new program has been expanding steadily for the past two years, but its relatively small size helped earn it a spot on the at-risk list. "German rounds out the language curriculum very well," junior German student Sasha Wilson said, "and it's increasingly important given current political situations." A proposed $37,838 budget reduction for the German program would decrease access to learning materials and limit enrollment in these classes.

The override vote this coming spring may be crucial in determining whether LHS will be able to maintain some of the programs that set it apart from other high schools.

One potential budget cut that would primarily affect teachers is the increase of the high school teaching load from 4 to 5 classes. This change would extend to the social studies, math, foreign language, and health departments. An increased class load might reduce teachers' availability to students for extra help or independent study. "[Increasing to 5 classes] limits the time a teacher can attend to preparing in the best possible way for each class" added social studies teacher Richard Kollen.

Another group slated for cuts is the nationally ranked LHS Policy Debate team, which requires a large budget to cover travel expenses, tournament entry fees, and salaries for coaches and judges. The team works throughout the year raising money to supplement the town's contribution, and while the students' fundraising efforts do pay off, they would not be enough to sustain the team after a $78,900 pullout from the town (including teacher and coach salaries.) Failure of the override would result in the collapse of the debate team as we know it.

Granted, all three of the aforementioned programs are in the third and lowest risk section of the potential cut list, but override failures have led to significant program cutbacks in the past. The override failure of June 2003 resulted in the reduction of art, music, and physical education programs at the elementary school level. The override vote this coming spring may be crucial in determining whether LHS will be able to maintain some of the programs that set it apart from other high schools.

Whatever the F*** You F***ing Want, F***er!

How admirable ideas of free speech and creativity are drowned out by a sea of four letter words

By Rachel Kase

As described in a feature article in January's issue of The Musket, WTFYW (Whatever the F*** You Want,) a student magazine, claims to encourage students to write freely on any and all subjects. However, recent editions of WTFYW undermine the admirable premise of the magazine. Student contributors' literal interpretation of the name of the magazine is significantly decreasing the quality of this publication.

Thanks to many of the magazine's contributors, who are apparently competing to see who can fill a sentence with the most four-letter words, WTFYW is a wasteland of profanities. Students are misinterpreting the editors' pledge to publish unedited submissions as an invitation to curse in public. While stream-of-consciousness writing and poetry is engaging, it is usually hard to weed much significance out of WTFYW. Their signature entry is F***...(insert faculty member, inconvenience, or trauma). Students enjoy the candor of WTFYW contributors and relate to their grievances, but the vulgarity and distastefulness of recent entries is far from amusing. It is disheartening that given the chance to freely and publicly express himself, a Lexington High School student couldn't think of anything more interesting to complain about than the one-minute walk from his car to the school.

Like the editors of WTFYW warn, "this magazine doesn't work without you." It is only as valuable as its submissions are and it is puzzling that students feel compelled to use this publication as an opportunity to swear their heads off rather than to be imaginative or humorous. Writing is useless unless its authors respect it as a craft that has the power to persuade, provoke emotion, and reveal truth. A call for "whatever the f*** you want" is not a call for a pool of verbal vomit.

FEATURES

With Food, Music and Dance, Asian Night is a Big Success

By Jana Qiao

On Friday, February 10, 2005, the high school's Asian Culture Club (ACC) celebrated a belated Chinese New Year with their annual Asian Night. The evening's attendees arrived at the ticket table positioned in front of a festive, lantern-adorned entrance, and were greeted into Commons II, which had been transformed into a room adorned in red and gold décor.

Visitors were directed to the evening's dinner, a buffet with a colorful array of delectable dishes ranging from sushi to fortune cookies. In addition to the buffet dinner, guests were also invited to participate in the night's raffle, which provided a colorful variety of prizes including traditional dishware and Asian sweets.

As the guests dined, they were treated to a number of diverse performances. The evening started off with ACC's co-vice president Jessica Wong performing on the dulcimer, followed by an arrangement of traditional Taiwanese songs sung by George and Kim Huang. "I thought this was a particularly interesting performance," a spectator said. "It's just really impressive that Kim, a Caucasian, is capable of being so fluent in the Chinese language!"

Continuing the night was a vibrant peacock dance performance by Danica Yang, Sarah, Chen, and Stephanie Lu, and a duet by Bryan Kao and Joe Chang on the Chinese flute, known as the Di Zi.

Renuka Bhisetti and Harita Dharaneeswaran also performed individual traditional Indian dances. Following them was the Chinese Yo-Yo club, which wowed the crowd with its synchronized, intricate, and sophisticated yo-yo tricks.

Next to perform were Ying Ying Shiue and Mallory Shan, who conducted an exquisite flute and fan dance that was pleasing to all.

The ACC had also invited a number of performers from outside of LHS, including the Cambridge Dance Troupe, comprised of younger girls aged from 10-12. These future high school students surprised the audience with their superb sophistication and grace. Gloria Chao, an MIT student, was also invited to demonstrate her impressive talents with her sword dance.

Ending the fun-filled night was Samina Hossain, who sang a number of songs, including a rendition of a movie ballad.

The ACC staff called the evening a success. "I thought Asian Night was amazing—the performances were great, and the audience was great too," says ACC Secretary Matt Yiu. "[The audience] was really supportive of the performances, and really enjoyed it."

"There was a really good turn-out this year," says co-vice president Doris Lo. "The audience seemed really engaged in the performances, and we also enjoyed [the performances] immensely. I really liked Asian Night because it also exposed people to Asian culture from different parts of Asia - those that people wouldn't normally be exposed to. We've been preparing for this evening since the beginning of school, so it was really rewarding to see such good end results."

"I really liked Asian night," says Kim Medlock with a smile. "it was really fun watching all of the performances, and I had a great time, and I can't wait for next year."

What's Hot and What's Not

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Winterfest: Three nights of tight, well-acted, well-written plays by the students you see every day! From comedies to tragedies, these festivities would have made Arthur Miller proud.	Dick Cheney: He shot. A man. In the face. With a shotgun. Does anything else really need to be said?
LHS Jazz Groups: Although second place at the Berklee Jazz Festival may seem like a disappointment after the groups nearly swept First Prize all around last year, LHS still boasts one of the best jazz programs in the state, and we should be proud.	Bishops Outlawing Homosexuals Adopting: We get the point. You don't like too much gay rights. But does your blatant homophobia have to to minimalize the chances of orphans finding loving parents? Come on, guys. It's time to find what your real values are.
Valentine's Day: What better way to spend a Tuesday than watching other people blush under the harmonized croon of Singing Valentines? You all know you like seeing it. Being sung to... that's another story.	Valentine's Day: A holiday created by the card manufacturers to make people feel lonely? Perhaps... and though Singing Valentines have their charm, it's only if you're NOT the one in the hot seat. You just like to sit there and point, digital camera at the ready.

NEWS - FEATURES

LHS Mission Statement Finished

By Devaki Raj

On Tuesday, February 14, the long-awaited Lexington High School Mission Statement was sent out to parents. Parents were encouraged to discuss the Mission Statement and its implications with their children. The LHS Mission Statement was written and revised by a group of parents, teachers, and students. Marina Musicus, a senior on the Mission Statement Committee, stated, "It is a strong statement and it is very specific to what the school proposes for the next ten years; it is an outline that is measurable. It addresses the school's problems and hints at solutions." This Mission Statement is drastically different from past versions. The school and the Lexington community have made a genuine effort to work together on this statement. The Mission Statement is a guiding force behind LHS policies and everyday high school activities.

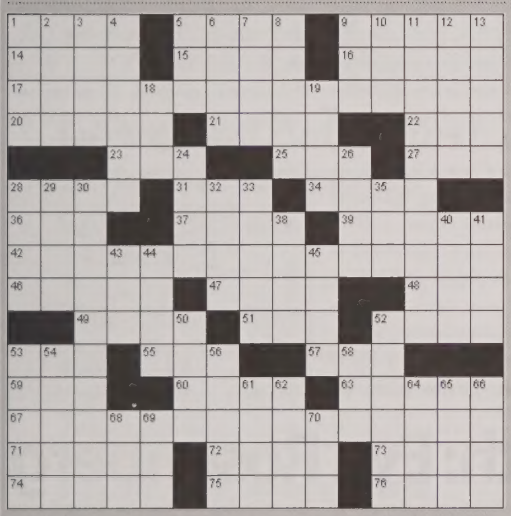
"It is a strong statement and it is very specific to what the school proposes for the next ten years; it is an outline that is measurable. It addresses the school's problems and hints at solutions." -Marina Musicus

Sophomore Preeya Khanna stated, "I believe the Mission Statement is really written to focus on the students and the impacts of LHS policies." The aim of the Mission Statement is to shape the core values of the school and its decisions on various school policies dealing with issues such as courses, clubs, and the weighted GPA. Students should read it as a way to become more involved and aware of policies at Lexington High School. Musicus went on to say, "I believe that students should read the Mission Statement to get an understanding of the core values at Lexington High School." The New England Association of Schools and Colleges requires a new Mission Statement for the high school's ten-year re-accreditation process.

The mission statement is available in the main office and on the school website.

Crossword Puzzle

By Garrett Bernstein and Chris Chaffee



Across
1. We three kings
5. Woe is me
9. Killer whales
14. Solemn ending
15. Blood and guts
16. Marsupial
17. Fast food request
20. Fixes prose
21. Active person
22. Half of a dance?
23. Tolkien creature
25. Accomplished
27. Humorous exclamation
28. Genie home
31. Exactly suitable
34. Sonic creator
36. "___ slave for you" (2 wds.)
37. Antidote
39. Beside the plate?
42. Fast food request
46. Marooned
47. Cartoon skunk
48. Miscommunicate on purpose
49. Messes up
51. Lorne Michaels' prgm.
52. Dunk adjective
53. Spanish girls
55. Common Asian last name
57. Also
59. Frigid
60. Ages
63. Not genuine
67. Fast food request
71. Explode
72. Grad.
73. Shockwaves, briefly
74. Time jump
75. Japanese coins
76. Month, day, year

Down
1. Create
2. In the middle of
3. Kenobi or Jinn
4. Foot part
5. Wine improver
6. Burden
7. "___ & Janis"
8. Tailored
9. Igor's 10th month
10. "Ruh ___" Scooby Doo exclamation
11. Outfielder's action
12. Hawaii hello
13. Doctor's order
18. A certain ISP
19. Eye part
24. Bridle and saddle
26. Distribute cards
28. Vanuatu Prime Minister Ham
29. Famous cookie chef
30. Pancake partner
32. Orange juice component
33. Paper source
35. 1/2 of Verizon
38. Athletes T.V.
40. Big continent
41. Swarm
43. Superlative suffix
44. Burnable obj.?
45. Hit with a projectile
50. Prophet
52. Flew
53. Slander, in writing
54. Honda car
56. "Impossible"
58. Switch position
61. African river
62. Shock
64. Peru capital
65. After Aug.
66. Stove brand
68. Nav. system
55. Pierre's summer
70. Brit. ship name preceder

LHS Club Earns National Recognition

By Emily Moss

Best Practices, LHS's education club, was recently featured by the national organization, What Kids Can Do (WKCD). The club was the subject of a front page article on their online publication,"http://www.whatkidscando.org". The club has also set up its own website at "http://www.bestpracticeslex.org".

WKCD is a non-profit organization devoted to airing the voices of adolescents around the country. Through publicity and publishing, they promote student involvement in schools and communities. The entire story can be read at "http://www.whatkidscando.org/featurestories/bestpractices.html".

The club recently held a teacher-student forum to discuss participation.

History Day • FROM PAGE 1

ing from local to world history, and from ancient times to the recent past," the National World History Day flyer on this year's theme explains. Such wide scope of interpretation was certainly seen in the LHS competition this year. Aside from Marjorie Agosin and Finnish independence, other topics ranged from Gandhi to the fall of the Berlin Wall, to the United States' Civil War and the Rwandan Genocide.

Senate Update • FROM PAGE 1

who fell below the median grade. Senator and senior Kevin Slane reminded the Senate that, by definition, half of the students in a class would have grades below the median grade. Additional concern was expressed that the publication of median grades would encourage students to enroll in ostensibly easier classes.

Singing Valentines • FROM PAGE 2

bling Boy George, and senior Pat Hogan's newly acquired mohawk, these boys were extremely cool.

The musical styling of these talented quartets varied from classic rock to hip hop. Only on this special day could you hear smooth serenaders melting hearts with the jungle lullaby of "In the Still of the Night," construction workers showing their soft side with "L-O-V-E," and golf pros singing "Share All My Lovin' With You" from the ever admired Beatles.

The punk gods' rendition of "Mary Moo" was a huge hit. "You Make Me Feel Like a Natural Woman" and Beyonce's "Baby Boy" were also among the weapons used against innocent students, making entranced viewers suddenly wish they had the pipes to belt out tunes like their talented peers could.

The proceeds of the hundreds of singing valentines bought went the LHS music department, ensuring that the musical ability that flourishes here will continue to grow and that musical holidays such as this one will continue in the future. At LHS, we are proud to say that Cupid is just a fellow classmate and we congratulate him on another successful year of fun on Valentine's Day, for we are truly in love.

Teen Suicide • FROM PAGE 1

as many as 60 percent of successful suicides are carried out with guns, and a report in the American Journal of Public Health found that "while intoxicated, adolescents are more likely to employ firearms than any other means in a suicide attempt." Groups such as the Educational Fund to End Handgun Violence advocate the "de-glamorization" and regulation of firearms in homes with children.

Lexington's current student support network receives overwhelming praise from both students and faculty. Holmen points out that the school is no stranger to teen suicide; Lexington's support staff witnessed an outpouring of student distress following the suicide of a Winchester hockey player two years ago. "A lot of kids feel comfortable talking to us. We are not doctors or psychologists, but we do know where to go," said Holmen. Lexington's network of guidance and outreach counselors, nurses, and deans are all qualified to deal with issues of student mental health, including suicide.

Misch, although unable to provide specific figures, stated that during the 2004-2005 school year, approximately 40 students went on leaves of mental health and underwent the subsequent "re-entry" meeting with school officials. Misch emphasized that although it informs administrators of student mental health issues, "[The Lexington support staff] wants to know about [the issues] and we want to help the kids."

Debates over the emotional education of students have arisen recently at LHS. Despite Principal Michael Jones' recent call for greater drug education within the school, the 2006-2007 budget overhaul is expected to cut one member of the Health Department and slash health class meetings from four to two times a week. The cuts dismay Misch and others involved in the student-support network. "Health classes provide a wonderful and really important service to this community and I think [cutting them] would be strongly felt."

"I just wish people in this community valued mental and emotional education as much as they value academic [education]," said Holmen.

Wrestling • FROM PAGE 8

bye didn't help the Minutemen since the tournament took place over vacation. Many varsity members went on vacation during their week off, and the depleted squad was no match for Framingham, which was ranked 19th in the state. However, the Minutemen had a great year and have much to look forward to in the upcoming seasons.

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

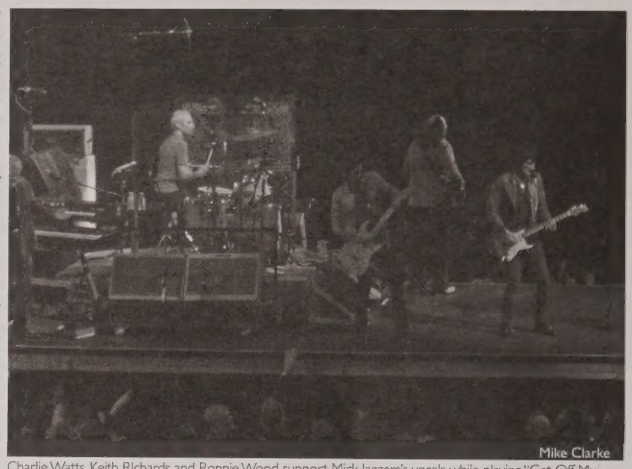
Stones' Bigger Bang Tour Rolls Into Boston

By Mike Clarke

Last month, a rock band that has been performing for over forty years, the Rolling Stones, played two sold-out shows at the TD Banknorth Garden and I found myself the lucky recipient of a ticket for one of them. Despite their advanced age, the Stones proved that they are not past their prime as they packed in a 21-song set over two plus nonstop hours. The show, which had more energy than concerts by bands a third of the Stones' ages, contained such timeless hits as Gimme Shelter, Brown Sugar, Jumpin' Jack Flash, and of course, (I Can't Get No) Satisfaction. The band even sprinkled in a couple of new songs from their recent best-selling album, A Bigger Bang. The group consisted of the four main Stones personalities, Mick Jagger, Keith Richards, Charlie Watts and Ronnie Wood, as well as a bassist, numerous sidemen playing a variety of brass instruments, and three back-up singers. Unlike many of the first British groups that reached America's shores in the mid-1960s and which subsequently fell by the wayside, the Stones have continued to produce well-crafted albums and put on stunning live performances around the globe. When asked recently if the band was having as much fun as in the early days lead guitarist Keith Richards responded, "At least as much. And I would say on this current tour, probably more." He added that the musical freedom the group members have afforded one another has helped to renew the energy of the band. Richards said that on this tour the band has drawn from a repertoire of at least sixty songs.

I had never seen the Stones before and was blown away by the energy put forth by the band, especially from lead singer Mick Jagger ,who danced and generally cavorted around the oversized stage without stopping throughout the concert. Unlike previous tours, this time the Stones kept the stage sets simple, with only a mammoth video screen distracting the audience from the music. However, about three-quarters of the way through the concert the center of the stage was separated from the main part and it was slid forward along railed tracks into the center of the crowd. At that point the Stones brought the intimacy of a smaller concert hall to the oversized venue of the new Garden.

In the end, although many people in the crowd were literally the age of many students' parents, there were enough people our age that the Stones could provide our generation with a whole new rock and roll experience. Many jokes have been made about the ages of the Rolling Stones of late, especially after their abbreviated performance during this year's Super Bowl half-time, but until you see them live you really don't have a true sense of what classic rock and roll is all about.



Charlie Watts, Keith Richards and Ronnie Wood support Mick Jaggers's vocals while playing "Get Off My Cloud" in a show at the TD Banknorth Garden.

Top 10: Sarcastic Love Songs

Chronicling the Pain, Embarrassment, and Good Bits of Relationships

By Kelly Siegel

1. **Postal Service**- Clark Gable: It's okay to pretend that you're satisfied with your love life.

2. **Bowling for Soup**- Emily: "So I got drunk, had sex with all your friends. You said that I should never call your house again."

The Kaiser Chiefs sit pretty.

3. **The Kaiser Chiefs**- Every Day I Love You Less And Less: When relationships go so bad that it makes you sick to think about.

4. **Depeche Mode**- Just Can't Get Enough: Proof that the 80s was THE era of artistic innovation.

5. **Sublime**- Santeria: Sublime, always teaching us to "pop caps" in they who steal our Valentines.

6. **Queens of the Stone Age**- Another Love Song: Because they really are all the same.

7. **2GE+HER**- The Hardest Part Of Breaking Up: ...is getting back your stuff. There's nothing worse than dating a kleptomaniac.

8. **Franz Ferdinand**- Cheating On You: Love just really isn't that important, anyway.

Boy band from years past: 2ge+her.

9. **50 Cent** - Hate it or Love it: 50 would choose the latter option in this Valentine's season.

10. **Cake**- Stickshifts And Safteybelts: It's so hard to be an entire 18 inches apart while driving. Some couples just can't handle the separation anxiety.

Bonus Track: **Goldie Lookin' Chain**- You Knows I Loves You: One of the funniest songs ever written. Don't believe me? Download it and I promise you'll thank me later.

Things Looking Up For SNL

By Andrew Gerzon

Saturday Night Live is indisputably one of the most successful shows of all time and over the years it has amassed an enormous fan base including viewers from multiple generations. Unfortunately, in the last few years the show has been in a steady decline and has showed no signs of returning to its old self. To the surprise of many fans, however, the 2005-2006 season has been extremely successful, delivering significantly more funny material. A piece of SNL's new found success can be contributed to newcomer Andy Samberg, who starred in the famous SNL music video "Lazy Sunday." The sketch is about Samberg and fellow cast member Chris Parnell going to see "The Chronicles of Narnia" in the style of an old-school rap video. The sketch was so well-received when aired that it soon surfaced on the internet and was also put on iTunes for purchase. The show also received some of its highest ratings in years when comedian Dane Cook (of Arlington, MA) hosted on December 3. Despite SNL's recent weaknesses, things are looking up and hopefully the show will be able to return to its past glory.

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Offbeat Athlete of the Month: Eva Rosenberg

Eva Rosenberg, on the far right, after receiving her award for placing 7th at the 2006 Junior Olympic Under-20 Championships in Hartford, CT on February 20th.

By Kevin Slane

When one thinks of the obscure sport of fencing, images of medieval swashbucklers engaged in duels to the death immediately come to mind. Or, perhaps the image of Zorro, the legendary hero who was famed for his swordsmanship. Indeed, these images are what first made fencing appeal to Eva Rosenberg. After starting about 4 years ago, Rosenberg has made enormous strides in going from an untrained rookie to a nationally ranked fencer in very little time. "I found out that my neighbors were training at the Boston Fencing Club, so I started taking classes and moved up the levels," said Rosenberg. Now the captain of the club's varsity squad, Rosenberg marvels at the popularity her sport has attained. "We may have forty fencers on any given night, and we have a JV team as well as many hard-working youth fencers. Fencing is more popular than most people think, but it's certainly not a mainstream sport yet."

Fencers have a choice of three different weapons, each with its own characteristics. The epee is the slowest and most defensive, the saber is the fastest and most aggressive, and the foil (the most popular) is the weapon in between the two,. Rosenberg started out on the foil like most, but switched to the saber at the beginning of her freshman year and began to compete nationally as a sophomore. "I decided to switch from foil to saber because of the exhilaration and adrenaline of saber. Since it's a faster kind of fencing, saber relies more on instincts and physical prowess than the other two weapons," commented Rosenberg. That physical prowess Rosenberg describes has catapulted her onto the national scene, giving her a ranking as high as seventh in the nation for female saber fencers under 20. Rosenberg travels everywhere for her tournaments. In fact, by the end of this season alone, Rosenberg will have traveled to New Mexico, Texas, Georgia, Connecticut, as well as other spots around New England.

Since the season runs from September through July, it is a full-time commitment, especially given how difficult the sport can be. "Fencing is very individual and a lot of the action goes on inside each fencer's head. The rules can be complicated, but most people have an archaic vision of what it means to fence. The sport is safe, controlled, and very intellectual. Above all, fencing is a thinking person's sport, so it's hard for outsiders to watch and understand," surmises Rosenberg, who thinks that this is one of the largest reasons that fencing is not the popular sport it should be. Still, even if fencers toil in obscurity, we know that Lexington is well-represented, thanks to Eva Rosenberg.

Boys' Track Team Captures the Division Title

Senior Nick Stulck leaps a hurdle as an opponent trails behind.

By Andrew Snyder

The Lexington boys track team led by Captains Willi Ballenthin, Dave Smoot, and Mark Liu has always been dominant in Middlesex League competition, but it has seemingly found a new gear this season by breaking records and earning several invites to the prestigious Nike Indoor Nationals Meet this coming March. The boys recently had a perfect 9-0 season punctuated by close 45-41 victory over the rival Reading Rockets. After defeating Burlington to regain the league title this past week, several members of the team are looking forward to the postseason, where they will try to fulfill sports editor Kevin Slane's bold prediction that the boys will win the state championship.

This season has been a record-breaking one for the Lexington boys, lead by the trio of Ballenthin, Walker, and junior Meikle Paschal. During the January 25 meet against Watertown, Ballenthin set a new league record in the 1000-m, Walker eclipsed the old dash mark, and Paschal set a new record in the 600-m race. Lexington's elite also solidified their status in the upper echelon of the state with their recent performance in the MSTCA Elite Coaches Invitational, where the top twenty-five athletes in each event from across the state competed. Willi Ballenthin won the 1000-m race in record time and junior teammate Brian Longo took third. After besting the previous record by almost a full second and running the third best time in the nation this year, Ballenthin was named the outstanding runner of the meet. Walker won the dash and took eleventh in the long jump, punching his ticket to Indoor Nationals. Paschal took third in both the high jump and the 600-m race and won the Outstanding All-Around Performance award. Other notable results were Junior Alex Lach's thirteenth-place finish in the 600-m and Senior Juan Quezada's ninth-place finish in the high jump.

Lexington's relay teams this season have also been top-notch, and the 4x800-m, 4x200-m, and distance medley teams have all run the times needed to attend the Indoor Nationals this season. The 4x200m team, composed of Walker, Paschal, Nate Yonren, and Smoot, finished second to the Andover 'A' team (the state's foremost competition) by the slimmest of margins in the major relay meets this year. The 4x800-m team composed of Ballenthin, Longo, Lach, and Geoff Rodriguez has experienced some inconsistency this year but has run well enough to qualify nonetheless.

Considering the fantastic times of Lexington this season, it was no surprise that at the Reggie Lewis Center for the State Meet, the Boys took home the Class A division 1 championship. The relay team and the strong running of Ballenthin allowed the Minutemen to pull past the competition, and they will look to do the same at the All-State meet on March 10th.

Girls Track Falls Short

By Stephanie Liu

In a very eventful season, the girls' indoor track team finished with a record of 8-1, its only loss was dealt by Reading. Led by captains Jess Batty, Sharikka Finley-Moise, and Libby Mislan, the girls easily defeated the first seven teams they faced. Then February rolled around, and just as the team had known it would all season long, the race for the league title came down to the girls' meet against their archrival Reading.

Lexington started off with a bang in the 2-mile, with Jackie Harvell running a 12:35, which qualified her for States and easily gave her first. Cara Lowenthal came in third. The 1000-meter race was a fast one, with all scorers qualifying for states. Reading took first and third, while Lily Fesler narrowly won second. Menemsha MacBain came in first in the mile race with teammate Naomi Campbell less than a second behind. In a highly contested call, officials gave third place to Reading and clocked Victoria Jones just two-hundredths of a second behind in fourth. High jumper Lucile Cancre jumped 5', good for second place, while Kathrine Foster tied for third with a jump of 4'10". Going into the relay, Lexington was leading by two points, not enough to guarantee the win. In an amazing effort, the relay team of Cancre, Ana Kouri, Martha Zimmermann, and Mislan ran its hardest but came up short as Reading took the win and the five points to secure the meet victory.

Despite the loss, the Lexington girls walked away knowing they ran their hardest and Reading was a tough team. Molly Zuccaro was happy with the performance, saying, "It was really awesome [and] I've never seen such hard effort."

Kathrine Foster clears the 5'0" bar in a recent track meet.

The season included many state-qualifying performances, including those of Sarah Heingartner (300-m), Selena Lane (2-mile), Batty (hurdles), Kouri (300-m), Finley-Moise (dash), Caroline Fernandes (high jump), Mislan (300-m, 600-m), Chan (1000-m), and Zimmer.

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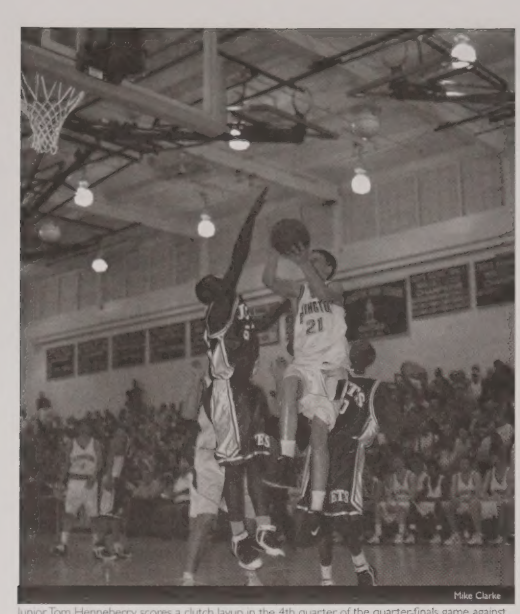
Swimmers Finish Off Strong Season On A High Note

Senior Captain Danny Sheridan leaps off a starting block.

By Stuart Grimes

After jumping out to a 7-1 start, the boys' varsity swim team completed its quest for the Middlesex League title with hard-earned victories in its final meets. The Minutemen began by dispatching Reading, Central Catholic, and Haverhill. However, the team ran into a speed bump when swimming against Andover. Falling by the score of 86-84, the Minutemen suffered their second loss of the season. Thankfully, despite this setback, Lexington won the Middlesex League Championship Meet by almost 200 points over Reading.

Lexington's eighth straight Middlesex League Championship victory was another great one as contributions from many swimmers added to the true team effort. Among the swimmers who performed brilliantly this season are seniors Matt O'Brien, Danny Sheridan, Stephen Chiang and Harvey Zhou, as well as junior Jackson Tsai and sophomore Greg Lowen. The team has also gotten key contributions from Lee Chiang, Alex Teng, Jack Justice, Apoorv Kumar, Alec Tandara-Kuhns, David Wang, Ben Amsel, Mike Pogran and many others. The Minutemen now turn their attention to the Sectionals and the state meet. The Minutemen will send ten swimmers to compete individually at Sectionals and five swimmers to compete individually at States. In addition, all three Lexington relay teams are headed to States. The Lexington swimmers are looking forward to strutting their stuff against some of the best swimmers in Massachusetts.



Junior Tom Henneberry scores a clutch layup in the 4th quarter of the quarter-finals game against East Boston. Henneberry and his teammates came up big with a 59-54 win in the game.

Boys' Basketball Team Starts off Playoffs with Two Great Victories

By Stuart Easton

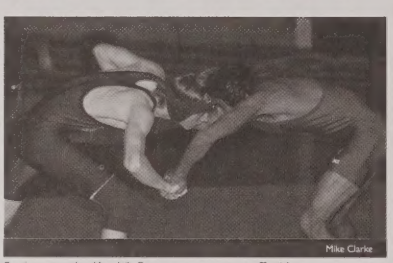
As all the winter sports teams have had successful seasons, the boys' basketball team has managed to keep pace by winning the Middlesex League for the fifth time in six years, and beginning the Division 1 North Tournament with two resounding victories over Lowell and East Boston. On March 3, the team dispatched Lowell 73-51, with major contributions coming from Thomas Heneberry who had 27 points, and Jimmy O'Keefe, who had 25 points and 11 rebounds. The larger test came against East Boston, who was ranked #13 in Eastern Massachusetts by the Boston Globe. At the beginning of the game, East Boston wowed the crowd with their acrobatic dunks and long 3-point shots. When the game started however, East Boston was all business. After trailing Lexington for most of the game, East Boston finally grabbed a lead with about 3 minutes left. Even worse for Lexington, Jimmy O'Keefe, the star of the team, had fouled out. With little time, East Boston finally made a mistake by leaving Mike Andryauskas open underneath the basket for an easy layup. Soon after, East Boston fouled Ross Curley, who left the game open by making only one of two free throws. East Boston's last ditch three point attempt hit front iron, however, and as Tom Heneberry gathered the rebound, East Boston was forced to foul. Heneberry, clutch as always, sank both free throws, and sealed the game for the Minuteman. Now, with Charlestown looming, the boys will hopefully continue to show why they are considered one of the top teams not only in the division, but in the state.

Wrestling Team Shines at Sectionals Tournament

By Tsung-Tsang Shen

Despite finishing their dual meet season with a disappointing 10-10 record, the wrestling team made a remarkable recovery by placing nine wrestlers at the Division One Central sectional tournament. The real surprise was Senior Alex Goulet, who captured a second place after scoring two upsets on his way to the finals. Goulet was defeated in his final match by a Framingham wrestler ranked fourth in the state. Along with Goulet, Senior Co-Captain Mike Bitterelli also reached the finals but was unable to compete due to a shoulder injury and had to settle for second place on an injury default.

The other team captain Senior Karthik Sugumaran took a third place in the very competitive 112lb. weight class. Sugumaran was joined by Sophomores Cameron Rawnsley and Jorge Hernandez who also took third place medals. Junior Russ Carpenter took a fourth adding to the total of six LHS wrestlers who qualified for the state tournament a week later. Unfortunately, only Bitterelli won a match at the states. Other sectional place winners were Ian Traniello (5th place) and Harry Cho and Marq Bitterelli who each placed sixth.



Senior wrestler Karthik Sugumaran squares off with an opponent.

The wrestling team also qualified for the first ever dual meet state tournament. They received a bye in the first round because only four teams in the Central Section had records of .500 or better. The team then had to face off against the very powerful Framingham squad which was the top seed in the section. Framingham not only handily defeated the Minuteman but also went on to take the sectional dual meet title by outwrestling a powerful Waltham team.

What should have been a joyous end of the year for a team which has been beset by injuries all year was marred when Sophomore Dean Chaffee suffered from a horrendous injury during the last week of practice. Chaffee broke his leg and ankle in two places in a freak accident and was hospitalized for two days before

continued on PAGE 5

Girls' Hockey Exits Early in League Playoffs

By Mike Grossi

After a stellar regular season, in which the Lexington girls' hockey team finished 13-4, the team was ousted in the first round of the playoffs by Lynn Classical 4-3. After a hard-fought season, in which the girls overcame many tough injuries, such an early exit was undoubtedly disappointing. Still, even a tough loss such as that one cannot take away from all the great experiences the team had this season. The Girls had one main focus going into this year: to win the Middlesex League title. The top of the league was crowded, and featured three teams vying for the title. Unfortunately, Lexington came in second as Woburn and Reading shared the championship. including two non-league losses to Needham (ranked 2nd in the state by the Boston Globe) and St. Mary's (ranked 6th in the state by the Boston Globe).

On January 7, the team had its best showing of the year as it annihilated Watertown 8 – 0. The girls distributed the scoring as eight different players tallied goals including Kristina Hankins, Lilli Janney, and Meagan Phelan.

On January 16, Lexington suffered its first loss of the season to a speedy and talented St. Mary's team. Hankins scored another goal, and the defense (along with goalie Libby Jauvtis) played a great game. Two days later, Lexington lost again to Needham by the score of 2 – 1.

After these losses, Lexington got back on track against Stoneham by winning 7 – 0. Haley Busa opened up the game with a goal and Lexington pulled away easily.

A week later, Lexington clinched a berth in the state tournament with a 5 – 2 win over Belmont with Hankins again scoring four goals. Goalie Jauvtis had a tremendous game, saving numerous shots in a fast-paced match-up.

The girls bounced back after the tough Woburn loss and beat Winchester in a close match, 3-2. They entered the playoff tournament with momentum as the 8th seed and beat Boston Latin Academy to advance. Regardless of how heartbreaking their loss to Lynn Classical was, the girls have had a great year.

Boys' Hockey Loses in 2nd Round

By Simon Lehar

After fighting through so many injuries and hardships to play at a level unheard of for hockey, the Minutemen lost in the second round to a tough St. John's Prep team, 6-4. Even with a great effort by the team, St. John's was simply too tough of a team for them to face. However, it was impressive enough that Lexington had advanced this far, considering the number of injuries the team sustained throughout the long and difficult season. More impressive was Lexington's great comeback against Westford Academy in the first round of the Division One North tournament. In the first two periods, Lexington was simply outskated, out-shot, and outplayed. Coach Mike Keegan knew his team needed motivation, and fast. Lexington was down 2-0, and was showing no signs of improvement. Whatever Keegan said to his boys in that locker room must have worked, because the Minutemen came out with fire in their eyes. Even though Westford Academy was ahead, the momentum had shifted Lexington's way. Senior David Robinson soon netted his first goal, putting Lexington within striking distance. Soon after, Junior defensemen Chris Stratford worked down the ice, and potted a sweet backhand past the helpless Westford Academy goalie. With the game now tied, the crowd was on their feet. After seemingly playing their way out of the game in the first two periods, Lexington had fought back. With the seconds ticking away, Lexington finally had a chance. After Robinson took a shot, the goalie deflected it back towards the Lexington team. A wild scrum ensued for posession of the puck, and in the melee, Robinson managed to poke the puck past the Westford Academy goalie for the deciding tally. Although the Minutemen fell to St John's Prep in the 2nd round, they will be exiting the tournament with their chins held high. No matter what happens in the coming seasons, the Minutemen can take pride in how well they performed even with the innumerable injuries incurred throughout the season. The team saw great contributions from all team members, from the team captains down to the most inexperienced sophomores. Since the team saw so many injuries, many different players had to step up to lead the team. Seniors Bart Tocci, Ryan Gelnaw, Freddy Janney, Matt Ellis, and Alex Abramo all factored into the team's great season. All of them will be missed next year, when Lexington will try to improve on their 10-8-2 record, and most importantly, stay injury-free.

Senior Matt Ellis edges out a Winchester defender while gaining control of the puck.